

Vol. 11

Drawn 29

7.27.00 2002

Funeral

Mon - 12/1/02

Curios and Relics

Vehicles

Funeral Train

Plaque

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Dr. Warren

Britt. Iowa.
August 31st. 1949.

Referred to

RECEIVED

Answered

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

To The President.
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.
Ft Wayne. Indiana.

Dear Sir:-

I have understood that you or your Insurance Company were interested in many items that touched the life of Abraham Lincoln. Hence this letter.

My Brother, who is in the Antique business has some items that might interest you.

The first armoured rail road car built in America was built for Mr Lincoln's use. However he never used this car, but it was the car in which his body was brought from Washington to Springfield, Illinois.

The car was later purchased by the Union Pacific R.R. Co and was by them exhibited all over that system. Then it found a rather inconspicuous place in the Omaha yards of that System. There it was used as a tool car. There later it burned. Among the fittings of this car were a number of bronz placks, set in betwene the windows, and each plack held a cast bronz cherub, holding something emblematic of some item from rural America. When the car was burning, one of the yard men worked his way into the car and with a crow bar pried two of these placks loose, and carried them home. Later upon his death they were purchased from his widow.

These bronz figures are set in oak frames, of about twelve by sixteen inches. The bronz plates are round, about eight or nine inches in diameter. One holds a sheaf of wheat, while the other holds a bunch of grapes. Both are in good condition.

Also my Brother has a very good likeness of President Lincoln, taken as a dygereotype, and enlarged, in The Presidents Study in The White House. It appears to have a signature—"Boyd"—as though taken by an artist of that name. Near the desk at which Mr Lincoln sat is a statue of Andrew Jackson. Before him, as though he had but just turned therefrom lies a sheaf of what appears to be letters he had just been signing. On the floor beside his chair lies a partly unrolled map, with CAMPEIGN OF 1864—written thereon, as though he had just been looking at it, and dropped it ready at hand for further use.

These items would seem to date it as just after the 1864 campeign. This steel cut is about sixteen inches wide and twenty four inches long. Is framed unddr glass and is in good condition. It has usually been used by one of the large Omaha stores on Lincolns birthday.

Now this may be bringing coals to Newcastle, but if interested, would be pleased to hear from you. If not this has taken but little time. Am writing you as I have a feeling these should be preserved somewhere.

Very truly yours.

C. N. Mc Millan

Funeral car

September 7, 1949

Mr. C.N. McMillan
Britt, Iowa

My dear Mr. McMillan:

It was kind of you to think of us with respect to the interesting plaque or plate, which came from the Lincoln car at Omaha. However, I am quite sure we would not wish to acquire one because we pay very little attention to merely association items of that type. Thank you, nevertheless, for calling it to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

